

What is claimed is:

1. A tube bender comprising:

a mandrel,

a forming member connected to said mandrel for coaction with said mandrel to
5 effectuate bending of a tube, said forming member having at least two bending positions
defined thereon;

a handle pivotally connected to said forming member; and

a release member movable relative to said handle and configured to be secured in a
locked position relative to said forming member when said handle is selectively moved to
10 any of one said at least two bending positions thereby preventing relative movement
between said handle and said forming member,

said release member enables an operator to move said release member to an
unlocked position to permit such operator to move said handle relative to said forming
member between said at least two bending positions.

2. The tube bender of claim 1, wherein said release member is a sleeve disposed about said
handle.

3. The tube bender of claim 2, further comprising a biasing element disposed between said
20 sleeve and said handle to resiliently bias said sleeve in a direction towards said forming
member.

4. The tube bender of claim 2, further comprising a biasing element disposed between said
sleeve and said handle to resiliently bias said sleeve in a direction away from said forming
25 member.

5. The tube bender of claim 3, wherein said biasing element is a spring.

6. The tube bender of claim 1, further comprising urging means disposed on said release member for permitting an operator to move said release member in an axial direction relative to said handle with at least one finger of the operator's hand that holds said handle.

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7. The tube bender of claim 6, wherein said urging means comprises an actuation lever having a finger-receiving portion and a coupling portion, said finger-receiving portion extends from said release member to enable such operator to actuate said finger-receiving portion of said lever with a finger of the same hand holding said handle without having to reposition such operator's hand, said coupling portion of said lever being operably connected to said release member wherein the activation of said finger-receiving portion of said lever causes said release member to move axially to said unlocked position.

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8. The tube bender of claim 1, wherein a first of said at least two bending positions is a 0-90 degree bending position.

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9. The tube bender of claim 8, wherein a second of said at least two bending positions is a 90-180 degree bending position.

- 20 10. The tube bender of claim 9, wherein said 0-90 degree bending position is oriented 90 degrees from said 90-180 degree bending position.

11. The tube bender of claim 1, wherein said mandrel includes a tube-receiving bending groove that extends arcuately at least 180 degrees about a bend axis.

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12. The tube bender of claim 1, wherein said tube bender can effectuate up to 180 degrees bending of such tube.